

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

In Memoriam

ASA BRADLEY STEVENS

First Lieutenant 203d Pennsylvania Infantry

DIED AT SCRANTON PA. JANUARY 21 1914

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

CIRCULAR NO. 14. }
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Philadelphia, August 13, 1914.

ASA BRADLEY STEVENS.

Private 203d Pennsylvania Infantry September 6, 1864; discharged to accept promotion September 21, 1864.

First Lieutenant 203d Pennsylvania Infantry September 21, 1864; honorably mustered out May 2, 1865.

Elected February 9, 1898. Class 1. Insignia 12113.

Born September 21, 1834, at Windsor, N. Y.

Died January 21, 1914, at Scranton, Pa.

Companion Stevens came from New England ancestry. The first of his line in this country, Asa Stevens, came from England in the early part of the 18th century and settled in Connecticut. The next in line, Capt. Samuel Stevens, was an officer in the Revolutionary War, commanding a company under General Marion. The next in line was the Rev. Reuben Stevens, a Methodist Episcopal minister, son of Capt. Samuel Stevens. He was born in Litchfield, Conn., and settled in Broome county, N. Y., in 1803. William Stevens, a son of Reuben, born also in Litchfield, Conn., who came with his father to Broome Co., N. Y., was the father of Lieut. Asa B. Stevens.

Companion Stevens came from Broome Co., N. Y., to Bailey Hollow, now Dalton, Penna., in 1856, where he engaged in business, and where in 1858 he married Miss Elvira A. Colvin, who with two sons, Julian G. and Frederick E., survive him. In 1863 he removed to Scranton, Pa., where he has spent a half century of active life both in business and in the political field, in both of which he achieved success, and in both of which he was highly esteemed.

His military service during the War of the Rebellion was in the 203d Penna. Infantry, in which he enlisted August 14, 1864, as a private in Company C. On September 21, 1864, he was commissioned First Lieutenant of the same company. Their first duty in the field was in front of Petersburg, where the 203d Regiment was in the 2d Division, 10th Army Corps. Afterwards at Deep Bottom, Chapin's Farm, New Market Road and Second Fair Oaks.

On the reorganization of the Army of the James his regiment was placed in the 2d Brigade, 2d Division, 24th Corps under General Ames, and took part in the first expedition against Fort Fisher, N. C., under Gen. Butler, in December, 1864. In January, 1865, Gen. A. H. Terry took command of a second expedition, which was successful. In this attack the 203d Penna. in Pennypacker's brigade of Ames' Division took a very active part, and lost a large number of its officers and men. The brigade charged the fort, broke

through the palisades and entered the works, where they were compelled to capture the traverses one after another, seventeen in number, which were vigorously defended by the enemy. Colonel Pennypacker, commanding the brigade, had already fallen, and Col. Moore of the 203d Penna. fell at the 4th traverse. Lieut.-Col. Lyman leading the regiment on, fell at the 7th traverse. The Captain and half of Co. C had fallen, and Lieut. Stevens took command. Company C was the color company and two color bearers had been shot down when a young boy volunteered to carry them, and did so until the last traverse was carried and the victory won. Afterwards the survivors of his company presented to Lieut. Stevens resolutions complimenting him highly for his conduct during that engagement. The regiment took part in the advance on Wilmington, and other duty mostly in North Carolina until the close of the war. On May 20, 1865, Lieut. Stevens, who was at that time under the surgeon's care, was honorably discharged, returning to Scranton, Pa., where he has since resided.

In 1866 Scranton was chartered as a city, and Asa B. Stevens was made Marshal of the new city. He afterwards served in the select council and other official positions. He was very active in securing from the Legislature the act erecting the new county of Lackawanna from a portion of old Luzerne county. He was appointed by the Governor the first Sheriff of the new county, and at the first election thereafter was elected to the same office.

He became a member of the Masonic order in 1857, and for many years thereafter was one of the most prominent and active members of that organization in Lackawanna Co. and probably officiated at a larger number of Masonic funerals than any other member of the order in the state during that time. He was a member of the Masonic Veteran Association.

During the latter years of his life he took a very active interest in the Grand Army of the Republic. He was a member of Lieut. Ezra S. Griffin Post No. 139, of Scranton, Pa., and had been seven times elected Commander of that Post. He had been also for one term Senior Vice-Commander of the Department of Pennsylvania, G. A. R. On January 2, 1914, only a few weeks before his death, he officiated as Installing Officer of his Post.

SMITH B. MOTT,

First Lieut. and Quartermaster 52d Penna. Infantry.

FREDERICK FULLER,

Lieutenant 52d Penna. Infantry.

FREDERICK L. HITCHCOCK,

Colonel 25th U. S. Colored Troops.

Committee.

By command of

Colonel HENRY S. HUIDEKOPER, U. S. V.
Commander

JOHN P. NICHOLSON
Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel U. S. V.
Recorder

Official

Recorder

